

## **Caveland Parent Support Network**

The organizational meeting of the Caveland Parent Support Network was held at the Western Kentucky Cooperative Extension Office at 1:00 p.m. on Thursday, March, 25, 2004. In attendance were: Pat Gilmer, Director of Simpson County Parent Resource Center; Pam Coe, Director of Caveland Educational Support Center; and the following parents:

CW Van Arsdale

Andy Hensley

Greg Hudson

Susan Ennis

Judy Vogel

Following is a summary of the meeting:

### **BACKGROUND**

There are few identified parent contacts in each school district.

Caveland serves 17 districts---only one (1) has a Parent Resource Center.

Caveland trainings are seldom attended by parents.

Parents do not frequently use Caveland's lending library.

Pat has seen a lack of knowledge of local resources among parents.

There is no systematic way to assess the needs of parents in our region.

Parents often are frustrated with navigating the "system".

### **OVERALL PURPOSE**

To provide support to parents on an individual basis when needed.

To provide opportunities for parents to learn about Special Ed.

To establish a systematic way to communicate with parents.

### **NON-PURPOSES**

To air grievances or tell personal stories.

To evaluate districts or agencies.

### **COMMUNICATING**

Communicate activities to Directors and Teachers.

Mailings through Special Ed. Directors.

Parent Meeting (Green)

News letter (Edmondson)

## INFORMING

Job Fair

Parent Professional Conferences

Topics:

- Disabilities

- Family Support

- COACH

- Special Ed. Terminology

- Rights and Responsibilities

- How to “Navigate” the “System”

- Guardianship/Transition

## SUPPORTING

Need Training (PSN)

## IDENTIFYING RESOURCES

“Shoebox Training”

Resource Map

Meet Monthly

Next Meeting ---April 15.... 1:00 to 3:00 and 7:00 to 9:00

- Shoebox training

- How to conduct your first parent meeting.

- Draft a Newsletter

- Meeting Facilitation Skills

- Design Needs Survey for parents in each district.